

CLAIMS

Having thus described the aforementioned invention, we claim:

1 1. A method for collecting, organizing, presenting and utilizing
2 data relative to a disaster or terrorist action site for use by an emergency
3 response team in responding at the site, said method comprising the steps
4 of:

5 a) collecting data relative to a facility including at least one of a
6 photograph, a spherical image, a site plan, a floor plan, chemical storage
7 data, and fire equipment location information;

8 b) storing said data in memory on a computer, said data being
9 organized in both a hierarchy and across spatial diagrams;

10 c) inputting data relative to an emergency situation located at an
11 emergency site;

12 d) selecting data within said hierarchy and said spatial diagrams
13 necessary to assess said emergency situation;

14 e) preparing a response to the emergency situation;

15 f) responding to the emergency situation in a manner consistent
16 with said step of preparing a response; and

17 g) updating said data as the emergency situation continues.

1 2. The method of Claim 1 wherein said step of collecting data
2 through said step of updating data is performed using a computer, and
3 wherein a responder assets management system is resident within said
4 memory.

1 3. The method of Claim 2 wherein said responder assets
2 management system includes at least one of an information module, a

1 logistics module, an operations module, and a planning module.

1 4. The method of Claim 3 wherein said information module
2 includes a link to at least one of a local weather information source, a
3 national weather information source, and said data stored in said memory,
4 wherein said step of selecting data is performed by choosing a selected said
5 link.

1 5. The method of Claim 4 wherein said link to said data accesses
2 an information tree and wherein said step of selecting data is performed by
3 scrolling through said information tree to find selected of said data.

1 6. The method of Claim 3 wherein said logistics module assists in
2 managing equipment resources during an emergency response, said
3 logistics module managing equipment information including at least one of
4 title, location, date and time of use, and date and time of return, wherein
5 said step of preparing a response includes the step of determining
6 availability of equipment for use in responding.

1 7. The method of Claim 3 wherein said operations module includes
2 a plurality of interfaces including at least one of a situational awareness
3 interface, an operations manager interface, a messenger interface and a
4 status board interface, said step of responding to the emergency situation
5 including the step of accessing at least one of said plurality of interfaces.

1 8. The method of Claim 7 wherein said situational awareness
2 interface is provided for a virtual walk-through, pre-incident planning,
3 contingency planning, training visualization, and operational support using
4 said data stored in said memory, said step of accessing at least one of said

1 plurality of interfaces including the step of reviewing said data using said
2 situational awareness interface.

1 9. The method of Claim 8 wherein said step of accessing at least
2 one of said plurality of interfaces further includes the step of annotating
3 said data with information specific to the emergency situation including at
4 least one of a description of extent of damage, and location of equipment
5 and personnel.

1 10. The method of Claim 9 wherein said step of accessing at least
2 one of said plurality of interfaces further includes the step of transmitting
3 said data for review at a remote location.

1 11. The method of Claim 8 wherein said data includes at least one
2 of a floor plan, a site plan and a map, wherein at least one icon representing
3 localized information is indicated on said data to indicate location of a
4 particular item, said step of reviewing said data further including the step of
5 selecting said at least one icon to reveal said localized information.

1 12. The method of Claim 8 wherein said situational awareness
2 interface includes an incident layer in which information specific to a
3 particular emergency situation is stored, wherein said step of reviewing said
4 data further includes the step of reviewing said information specific to the
5 particular emergency situation.

1 13. The method of Claim 7 wherein said operations manager
2 interface is provided for remotely monitoring progress during the emergency
3 situation, said step of responding to the emergency situation including the
4 step of creating a record of said response to the emergency situation

1 including at least the time the emergency situation occurred, and the nature
2 of the emergency situation.

1 14. The method of Claim 7 wherein said messenger interface is
2 provided to support informational messages and data update messages.

1 15. The method of Claim 7 wherein said status board interface is
2 provided for automatically updating said operations module, said step of
3 responding to the emergency situation including the step of monitoring said
4 data during said response to the emergency situation.

1 16. A method for providing automated response relative to
2 significant unplanned emergency situation, said method comprising the
3 steps of:

4 a) collecting data relative to an emergency situation ;
5 b) identifying at least one type of an emergency situation;
6 c) inputting data relative to the known characteristics of said
7 emergency situation;
8 d) generating a response to said emergency situation: and
9 e) tracking progress of said response to said emergency situation.

1 17. The method of claim 16 wherein said steps of collecting data
2 through said step of tracking the progress of said response is performed
3 using a computer and wherein a Responder Assets Management System is
4 resident within said memory.

1 18. The method of claim 17 wherein said Responder Assets
2 Management System includes at least one of an information module, a
3 logistics module, an operations module, and a planning module.

1 19. The method of claim 18 wherein said operations module
2 includes a response options generator interface.

1 20. The method of Claim 19 wherein said response options
2 generator interface is provided for automated response, said response
3 options generator including at least one automated checklist of at least one
4 action to be completed for preparing a response to the emergency situation,
5 wherein said step of responding to the emergency situation includes the
6 step of following said at least one checklist throughout the duration of said
 response to the emergency situation.

1 21. The method of claim 20 wherein said step of responding to the
2 emergency further includes the step of capturing by said checklist a date
3 and time of completion of said at least one action.

1 22. The method of claim 19 wherein said step of responding to the
2 emergency further includes the step of generating a response using said
3 resource generator interface, said response comprising a list of at least one
4 option to be considered as an appropriate response to said emergency
5 situation.

1 23. The method of claim 22 wherein said at least one option is
2 selectively includable and excludable.

1 24. The method of claim 23 wherein said step of responding to the
2 emergency further includes the step of tracking a selected response to
3 include date and time of initiation of each response and time to complete.

25. The method of Claim 23 wherein said selected response to the emergency situation further includes the step of generating a time-phased list of required resources using said response options generator, said resources in said time-phased list including at least one of personnel and supplies required at any interval during said response.